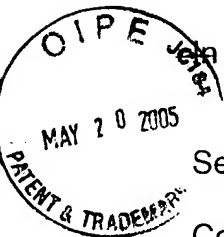




IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



re Application of:
Peter Ellington

Serial No.: 10/663,351

Confirmation No.: 1597

Filed: September 12, 2003

For: EXPANDABLE COUPLING

MAIL STOP AMENDMENTS
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

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Group Art Unit: 3679

Examiner: Erik K. Nicholson

Customer No. 36735

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 37 CFR 1.8	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on <u>18 May</u> , 2005.	
<u>William B. Patterson</u>	<u><i>William B. Patterson</i></u>
Typed Name	Signature
<u>34.102</u>	<u>(713)623-4844</u>
Reg. No. if applicable	Telephone Number

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED JANUARY 27, 2005

In response to the Office Action dated January 27, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on April 27, 2005, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. Although Applicants believe that no fees are due in connection with this response other than the fee indicated in the separate accompanying request for extension of time, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/CRUI/0027/WBP for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. **Remarks** begin on page 8 of this paper.